

Appl. No. 10/649,019
Amdt. dated April 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 25, 2006

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed January 25, 2006. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following comments. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance for claim 7 and the indication of potential allowability of claims 3, 10 and 11. Claims 5 and 13 have been amended for clarity. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 5-6 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 5 and 13 have been appropriately amended, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-2 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Okada et al., EP 0 965 710 A2. In order to anticipate, the cited reference must disclose each and every claimed element. Okada et al. fail to do so.

In particular, independent claim 1 requires, in addition to other claimed elements, that the control unit determines "...a priority order of the transmitting circuits to set the predetermined cycle of the request signal output from each transmitting circuit in accordance with the priority order." Independent method claim 8 includes similar limitations. As stated in claims 1 and 8, each of the transmitting circuits are associated with a particular door. Thus, the claims require that the control unit determines a priority order for the request signal output from each transmitting circuit, associated with each door. Okada et al. do not disclose this claimed element.

The Examiner points to column 19, lines 42-55 of the reference as disclosing this feature. This is not correct. While the cited portion of Okada et al. discloses transmitting car numbers on either the drivers side or the passengers side of a vehicle, and discloses altering the pattern in which the car numbers are transmitted, it is respectfully submitted that this is not the same as determining a priority order for outputting a request signal from each transmitting circuit, where each transmitting circuit is associated with a single door. A side of a vehicle is not a single door.

With respect to claims 1 and 8 (and claims 2 and 9 depending therefrom) Okada et al. fail to disclose a control unit that determines a priority order for each of the transmitting circuits that are individually associated with a single door. Okada et al. fail to disclose a claimed element. Thus, for at least this reason, Okada et al. fail to anticipate the claimed invention. Favorable

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reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 4 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Okada et al., EP 0 965 710 A2, in view of Asakura et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,778,065. Okada et al. are distinguished above as failing to describe the invention of claims 1 and 8, from which claims 4 and 12 depend. Claims 4 and 12 add further limitations and are similarly patentable over Okada et al. Asakura et al. are not believed to remedy the noted shortcomings of Okada et al. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

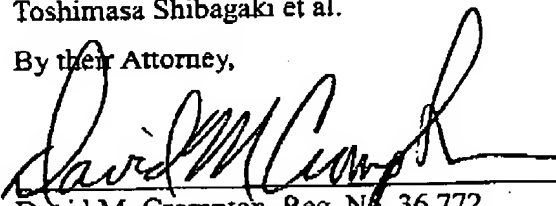
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshimasa Shibagaki et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: 4/24/06


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